UNUSUAL TOMATO - Mrs. Mary Moon of Route 2, Appomattox is shown holding an unusual tomato, a "four-in-one" tomato, four small well developed tomatoes joined together.

Mrs. Moon especially wanted her daughter, Miss Hazel Moon, a missionary in Africa, to know how the gardening was going. Hazel, it really looks good!

The Story of the Lost Ring

The age-old story of a lost ring, whether it be a wedding ring or a class ring is rather trite; but this story is special for two reasons. First, unlike most, "lost-ring" stories, it has a happy ending, and, second, the people it involves are very special people.

The ring was a beautiful 1931 college class ring from the University of Richmond. The stone was the fourth stone to be set in the ring. It was a deep amethyst quartz found in a field in Appomattox County. On the side of the ring was the "caduceus" the symbol for the coveted degree in medicine. Its owner was a brilliant, young doctor from Appomattox.

In the summer of 1957 this handsome doctor was playing basketball with his two precious young daughters on their farm some miles from town. He had decided that the safest place for his class ring during the game was in his pocket. This way he would be free to "horse-around" with the girls without the fear that one of them might be hurt by the heavy ring.

After the game, the doctor reached in his pocket to return the class ring to his finger. He found nothing but an empty pocket . . . the ring was gone!!

Thoughts flashed through his mind - could he have left it by the sink while washing dishes? Could he have taken it off at his office while ministering to a patient? Could he have left it safely on his dresser at his home? No - he was sure it had to be lying somewhere on that vast, grassy basket-ball court.

The search which was started immediately by his wife and daughters lasted off and on for several years. Finally, everyone gave up all hope of ever finding the ring - everyone, that is, except the doctor's beautiful wife.

Wherever they stole away to enjoy the quietness of the farm, the thought of the lost ring was always in the back of her mind.

Some twenty years later, in the summer of 1977 the doctor's wife was amusing herself with a metal detector while the doctor was tending his garden. The detector sent out a wavering beep. The wife scratched in the dirt feeling confident she was the proud owner of another rusty bottle top. But she found nothing. As the doctor's beep became stronger, she dug deeper and deeper. Suddenly, about two-inches down, she struck a solid piece of metal - something gold with a bright amethyet stone!!! She looked closer and saw the small, but ever so clear, caduceus.

She let out a scream that could be heard for miles. The doctor rushed from his garden, thinking some harm had befallen his wife.

As he rounded the corner of the farm house, he found his wife, kneeling beside the metal detector, with tears in her eyes - and his college ring in her small dirty hands.

Together they screamed, hugged, kissed, danced, cried, rejoiced and prayed.

Then the wife placed the ring on her husband's finger. After twenty years, it was still a perfect fit! With utmost affection Dr. Clyde O'Brien put his arm around his wife and the two walked peacefully back to the farm house.

As related to Lina Trent

Rev. Frank W. Casper

To Conduct Revival Service At Red Oak Baptist Church

Rev. Frank W. Casper, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Concord, will be the guest evangelist for revival services at Red Oak Baptist Church, located on Highway 26 in Oakville, beginning Sunday evening, August 12th, and continuing through August 17th. The services will begin at 7:45 p.m. each night.

Rev. Casper is a native of Chesapeake. He received his degree from Mississippi College in Clinton, Mississippi and received a Master of Divinity degree from Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

Mr. John Hall of Appomattox will be leading the singing and there will be special music each evening.

Rev. G. E. Hughes, pastor of Red Oak Baptist Church, and the entire congregation extends a cordial welcome to everyone to attend any or all of these services.

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ASCS TODAY
By Tom Conrad

Flue-Cured Tobacco Markets Open - On August 7th the area flue-cured tobacco markets opened for the 1979 crop.

Even though the markets are now open, not many Appomattox flue farmers are marketing their crop yet. This is evidenced because not many marketing cards have been picked up yet.

I remind flue farmers that they do need to stop by the ASCS office to pick up their marketing card and when they do they will be required to certify whether or not DDT, TDE, Toxaphone or Endrin was used on their tobacco and whether or not any discount variety of tobacco was planted.

In using your marketing cards this year I ask that all flue producers follow these guidelines to help prevent any violations from occurring:

1. Examine the card carefully when it is issued to see that it has the correct name, address, farm serial number and quota.
2. Take the card to the warehouse when the tobacco is weighed in and be sure to pick it up when the check is issued.
3. After each sale check to see if the entries made on the card agree with the sale bill. If an error is found report it immediately to the marketing recorder at the warehouse or to the ASCS office.
4. Do not allow tobacco from another farm to be sold on your card.

While on the subject of the markets, I remind flue producers that the next redesignation period will run from August 31 through September 7. If you do redesignate at that time, the redesignated tobacco will be eligible for price support on September 17.

Tobacco Reminder - Tobacco marketing regulations prohibit the harvesting of a second crop of tobacco (except burley). A second crop of tobacco is the harvesting from the same plants or different plants from the same acreage in any calendar year. The penalty for second crop harvesting (suckers) is a reduction in allotment for next year by the amount of acreage from which the second crop (suckers) was harvested.

Solar Grain Drying Loans Available - To help farmers conserve energy (ASCS) will finance solar grain drying systems. Funds for the energy-saving systems are available under the farm facility loan program.

Although solar energy is a relatively new technology as applied to agriculture, farmers are being encouraged to develop and use solar systems because of steadily rising fossil fuel costs.

ASCS will finance commercially constructed or home-made solar systems. Producers eligible for farm facility loans under current procedures will be eligible for financing solar grain drying systems.

Grain drying using conventional fuels - liquid petroleum gas and natural gas - is a high energy operation. Solar grain drying is an alternate technology that uses less energy but still preserves the crop for the feed use intended.

Loans for solar systems were first made available last fall in 10 states and 27 counties as part of a pilot project. Shortages of various farm fuels and higher costs prompted the agency to open the program nationwide.

For more program details or additional information, contact the ASCS office.

1979-Crop Soybean County Loan Rates Announced By USDA - County loan and purchase rate schedules for 1979-crop soybeans are unchanged from those in effect for 1978. County rates are based on the national average loan level of $4.50 per bushel for 1979-crop soybeans as announced November 11. The Appomattox County loan rate is $4.47 per bushel.

The premium and discount schedule is also unchanged from that used in the 1978-crop program.

The national average loan level is for soybeans containing 12.8 to 13 percent moisture and graded not lower than No. 2 on the factors of test weight, splits, and heat damage, and No. 1 on all other factors. Price support will be at the rates for the counties where the soybeans are stored.

Soil Samples - To remind farmers in the county that now would be a good time to start taking soil samples. The sooner they are taken the sooner your results will be back and this will be to your advantage, especially if you are planning on participating in the Agricultural Conservation Program.

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